

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-136

Spamer Homestead

9811 Oak Park Drive

Baltimore, Baltimore County

Circa 1820

Private

Constructed circa 1820, the Spamer Homestead is located in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County near the village of Germantown and Perry Hall. In 1775, Henry Dorsey Gough purchased a mid-18th century estate, located in the vicinity of the current intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads, and renamed it Perry Hall. By the mid-19th century the Perry Hall lands had been subdivided and other landholders began to construct residential buildings. The 1850 Sidney map denotes the Spamer Homestead as belonging to John Fox. Between 1867 and 1886, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company Inc. completed a turnpike following the path of Belair Road to the existing bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls. During the early-20th century Perry Hall expanded and absorbed the small farming community of Germantown. The suburbanization of Perry Hall occurred after the Great Depression when many Baltimore residents relocated to the suburbs. The Spamer family has been residing at 9811 Oak Park Drive since 1881.

Facing Northeast and sited on a wooded lot next to a 1990s development, the random-rubble stone house, constructed circa 1820, is three bays wide and two-and-a-half stories high. It has a center entry containing a single-leaf wood door and a 1-light transom. The 6/6 windows are supported with thin slate sills. The roof has been replaced with a half-gambrel clad with asphalt shingles. The façade features three gable dormers, not original to the house. Several additions have been made to the dwelling. One addition is a two-and-a-half story random-rubble stone section capped with a mansard roof clad with variegated wood shingles. A shed roof dormer with paired 2/2 double-hung sash windows was later added to the house. Associated with this property are four historic and three non-historic secondary buildings.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 136

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Spamer Homestead

other

2. Location

street and number 9811 Oak Park Drive not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William J. & Hazel P. Spamer

street and number 9811 Oak Park Drive telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21236-4843

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 63, 115

city, town Towson liber 11783 folio 40

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	4 3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	4 3 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 136

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The original house of the Spamer Homestead was constructed circa 1820 and is nestled in a suburban development. Mature trees and shrubs screens Gunpowder Falls from view. The property has a gravel driveway and is surrounded by overgrown vegetation. The random-rubble stone house, original to the property, is three bays wide and two-and-a-half stories high. It has a center entry containing a single-leaf wood door with a 1-light transom. The 6/6 windows are supported with thin slate sills. The roof has been replaced with a half-gambrel clad with asphalt shingles. The façade features three gable dormers, not original to the house. Several additions have been made to the dwelling. One addition is a two-and-a-half story random-rubble stone section capped with a mansard roof. The roof is clad with variegated wood shingles. The windows in this section are 2/2 double-hung wood sash with square-edged wood sills and lug wood lintels. A shed roof dormer with paired 2/2 double-hung sash windows was later added to the house.

Associated with this property are four historic and three non-historic secondary buildings. Close to the main dwelling is a two-and-a-half-story dwelling of wood frame construction clad with weatherboards. Dating circa 1890, the first story contains a double-leaf diagonal-board doors and is covered with a pent roof. The upper stories feature 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows. The upper half story is clad with square-butt and diamond-shaped slate tiles. The building is capped with a front gambrel roof featuring overhanging eaves, a boxed wood cornice, and a wood soffit. Next, is a circa 1900 barn. It is wood frame construction and is clad with vertical-board siding. It features a 4-light wood casement window and one single-leaf vertical-board door. It is covered with a side gambrel roof sheathed with corrugated-sheet metal. A central cupula is clad with corrugated-sheet metal. Next to the second dwelling is a wood-frame shed, dating 1940, standing one-and-a-half stories with a front-gable roof clad with corrugated sheet metal. The building is covered with asphalt roll and features overhanging eaves and a boxed wood cornice. One window is missing in the upper-half story. Next to this shed is a non-historic shed dating from the 1960s. It is constructed of cinderblock with a gambrel roof clad with asphalt shingles. A rebuilt machine shop, dating circa 1960, is constructed of cinderblocks. It stands one-and-a-half stories high and is three bays wide. It has one single-leaf wood door, a multi-light wood window, and a sliding corrugated-sheet metal door. The shop is capped with a side gambrel roof and features two shed-roof dormers. The third non-historic building is a wood-frame tractor shed, dating circa 1980. It is capped with a shed roof with corrugated-sheet metal.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 136

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1820 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1820 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Facing northeast, this dwelling known as the Spamer Homestead, was constructed circa 1820. The property is located near the historic village of Germantown and Perry Hall in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County. In 1775, Henry Dorsey Gough purchased a mid-18th century Georgian estate from Corbin Lee and renamed it Perry Hall. This property was located in the vicinity of the current intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads. Belair Road connected Baltimore to the town of Bel Air as early as the mid-1700s. Dating to the 1730s, Joppa Road connected settlements along the Patapsco River with Joppa, the original Baltimore County seat located on the Big Gunpowder River. The Perry Hall estate was located a short distance to the north of the intersection of these two important Colonial period roads. This arrangement set the area on a course for development as a crossroads community.(1)

By the mid-19th century, the lands associated with Perry Hall had been greatly subdivided, and several other landholders in the area began to construct residential buildings along either side of Belair Road. The 1850 county atlas shows at least nine residential structures located between the two rivers. In addition to these, three taverns were clustered around the center of the community near the intersection of Joppa and Belair Roads. The name Germantown came to this settlement in the 1860s, when a significant number of German farmers began to settle in and around the area.(2)

Between 1850 and the mid-1870s, the Germantown community grew considerably. From the nine residential structures in 1850, the town grew to at least thirty-seven in 1877. This number continued to increase, for the county history published shortly thereafter records the population as fifty inhabitants. At that time, a general store, two blacksmith shops, a schoolhouse, three churches, and tavern, and sawmill were located in the small settlement.(3)

In 1867, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company incorporated with the intent of creating a better road from Baltimore to the town of Jerusalem. The turnpike was slated to follow the path of Belair Road until it reached the Little Gunpowder Falls, at which point it would veer off and follow Jerusalem Road for the remainder of the distance. The Turnpike Company completed the first eight miles of the road to just south of Perry Hall with the remainder of the road left unimproved. Due to complaints by local citizens and administrative changes in the company, the road was completed for an additional four miles to the existing bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls in 1886.

Since the mid-20th century, the landscape of Germantown has greatly changed. To begin, the community was absorbed by the town of Perry Hall to the immediate south, which developed more through the early 20th century than Germantown. The rural character of the area did not change until after the Great Depression. Increased out migration from Baltimore and development of the surrounding area led to the suburbanization of Perry Hall. Belair Road, now a main thoroughfare through the town, was widened in the latter half of the 20th century and is now a four lane highway. Commercial buildings, churches, and other institutional buildings now intermingle with a few pockets of residential construction along Belair Road just north of its intersection with Joppa Road.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Spamer Homestead

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

The Spamer Homestead is shown on the 1850 Sidney map belonging to John Fox.(4) By 1877, the property had transferred to Renshaw.(5) In 1915, W. Spamer was the resident of the dwelling at 9811 Oak Park Drive.(6) In 2002, screened by mature trees and overgrowth, the property is nestled within a 1990s suburban development. The owner of the property in 2002, is William J. Spamer. The Spamer's have resided at this located since 1881.(7)

ENDNOTES

1. William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," Maryland Historical Magazine 15 (1920): pp. 208-213; see also "The New Perry Hall School," Federation PTA News 6 (April 1930): p. 1, and E. Frances Offutt, Baltimore County Landmarks (Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971), p. 46-48.
2. J. C. Sidney, Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, 1850.
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), p. 61
4. Sidney Atlas, 1850.
5. Hopkins Atlas, 1877.
6. Map of Baltimore County (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).
7. Oral History noted on the previous Baltimore County Survey Form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 136

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 11.91 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name White Marsh

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Spamer Homestead, constructed circa 1820, is located at 9811 Oak Park Drive in Perry Hall in the Eleventh District on Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with tax map 63 parcel 115 since its construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Baynard & J. Riggle, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 8/23/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Spamer Homestead

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

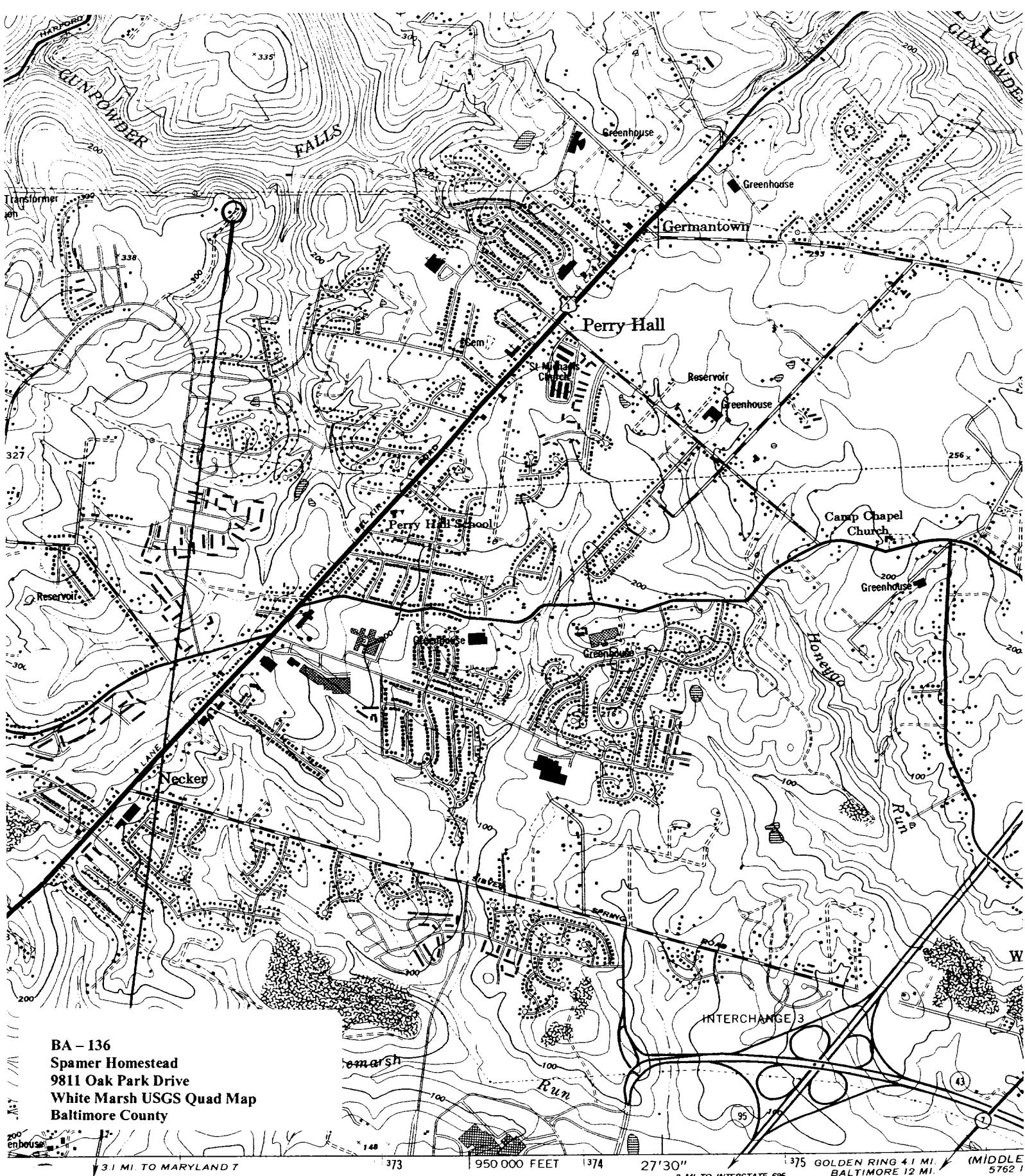
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

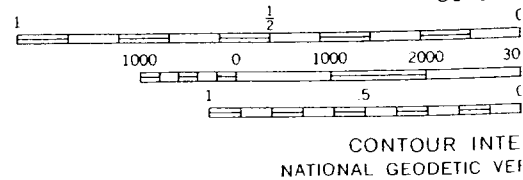
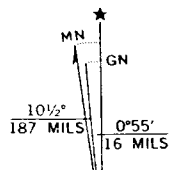
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.



y the Army Map Service
 d published by the Geological Survey
 SGS and NOS/NOAA
 by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 taken 1947. Field checked 1949
 ojection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
 ordinate system
 Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,





BA-136

SPAMER HOMESTEAD

9811 OAK PARK DRIVE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

MD SHPO

HOUSE, NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1 OF 5



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SPAMER HOMESTEAD

9811 OAK PARK DRIVE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

MD SHPO

HOUSE, SOUTH CORNER

2 OF 5



BA-136

SPAMER HOMESTEAD

9811 OAK PARK DRIVE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

MD SHPO

SECONDARY DWELLING, EAST ELEVATION

3 OF 5



BA-136

SPAMER HOMESTEAD

9811 OAK PARK DRIVE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

MD SHPO

BARN, SOUTH ELEVATION

4 OF 5



BA-136

SPAMER HOMESTEAD

9811 OAK PARK DRIVE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

MD SHPO

SHEDS AND OFFICE, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

5 of 5

Maryland
Baltimore County
District XI
(Rockland Farm) Glen Arm

BA-136
Spamer Homestead

0301365304

About 1827

*demolished prior
to June, 1980
JJA*

Large stone, cement covered house, enlarged in 1881
and 1888. Located on property of two original grants -
Darnell's Sylvania 1683 and Michael's Addition 1719.

Owned by Harry Dorsey Gough Carroll; in 1881 purchased
by Elmer Spamer.

(First HABS Report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965